Revival of pipeline project talk

2458. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited Pakistan to revive pipeline talks;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the talks held with Pakistan Government;

(c) whether now all the issues regarding pipeline with the concerned countries that is India, Pakistan and Iran have been fully settled; and

(d) if so, by what time this project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) A Ministerial-level bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan was held on April 25, 2008 in Islamabad. Issues concerning Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project, namely, project structure, transportation tariff and transit fee for passage of gas through Pakistan, were discussed in the meeting.

(c) Discussions are under way amongst the participating countries for resolution of various important issues concerning the project.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Increased level of crude oil import

†2459. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's import of crude has been on the rise during the period starting from October to December, 2008;

(b) if so, the extent of this rise in import against the corresponding period in last year;

(c) the share of public sector and private sector in this import rise; and

(d) the reasons for rising import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The country imported a total of 11365 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) of Crude Oil in October 2008, which was higher by 2.9% over the quantity of Crude Oil imported in April 2008. The figures for the months of November and December 2008 are not yet available.

(b) and (c) Comparative figures of imports of Crude Oil in quantitative terms for the period April-October of the years 2007 and 2008, as also the share of public sector and private sector, are as under.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Trend of crude oil import

Month	Import Quantity (TMT)					
	BY PSU		BY PVT.		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
April	7582	7218	3410	3824	10991	11041
May	7133	6245	3221	3876	10355	10121
June	6889	7138	2888	3463	9777	10601
July	7758	7511	3138	4423	10896	11934
August	6640	7371	3224	3506	9863	10877
Sept.	5859	6724	2867	3540	8726	10264
Oct.	7411	7302	2628	4063	10039	11365
Total	49272	49508	21376	26696	70648	76203

(d) Rise in the import of Crude Oil has been due to higher processing requirements of the Crude Oil refineries during the said period.

Proposal for Sea World at Siddhudurg in Maharashtra

†2460. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether unlike many foreign countries, India too would soon offer the pleasure of watching closely the beautiful spectacle of variegated fishes and underwater blue sea and to this affect, a proposal to set up the first ever 'Sea World' in Siddhudurg for avid watchers of underwater beauty of sea, has been sent to the Centre by Maharashtra Government; and

(b) if so, the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No proposal for setting up of 'Sea World' in Sindhudurg has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) Does not arise.

Eco/medical tourism in Rajasthan

2461. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the heels of earlier versions of tourism like Eco-tourism, Medical Tourism, Tea-garden tourism, the State Government of Rajasthan has launched its package of Dacoit tourism to lure averse as visitors to its dacoit infested ravines in Chambal area;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.